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SUBJECT: NEPAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST ASKS FOR EXPANDED
UNMIN MANDATE

¶1. (SBU) On November 21, Sushil Pyakurel, a Nepalese human rights activist and former Commissioner in the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal, urged a group of European diplomats to press the Nepalese government on human rights and to support an expansion of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) when the current mandate expires in January. Pyakurel,s travel to New York and meetings were sponsored by the Danish Mission. USUN was invited to join a luncheon discussion with Pyakurel.

¶2. (SBU) Pyakurel agreed that the key priority in Nepal is to set a date for the long-delayed Constituent Assembly elections. However, he said Nepal,s many points of strife, including the demands of marginalized communities, rule of law, internally displaced persons, justice reform and human rights reform, were all roadblocks preventing elections from taking place. Although he acknowledged that India did not support expanding UNMIN,s mandate, he nonetheless urged attendees to press for an expansion.

¶3. (SBU) He said UNMIN,s renewed mandate should include the following: 1) support to the implementation of the peace process and to agreements signed by the parties; 2) promoting discussion about the future of Maoist combatants in the cantonment sites; 3) promoting public security, particularly in the Terai region; and 4) security sector reform. Representatives from the British and French Missions to the UN echoed support for these points, but noted that the Security Council was sharply divided on the UNMIN mandate, given Chinese and Russian opposition to change. Neither believed that the UNMIN mandate could be expanded before the successful completion of Constituent Assembly elections.
Khalilzad